



February 11, 2016

### **I-66 Widening:**

Wednesday's announcement that the VDOT will finally widen I-66 inside the beltway is good news largely due to the hard work of a bipartisan group of local and state leaders. Click [HERE](#) for further information.

### **Lines of Business Review:**

In January the Board began the long awaited Lines of Business Reviews (LOBs). While the presentations have been very informative on what the agencies do and their volume of work, I have been sorely disappointed with the almost complete lack of the promised business metrics. Click [HERE](#) for further information.

### **Noise Ordinance:**

At our November 17th meeting, the Board passed a new noise ordinance with a delayed effective date of February 17, 2016. After working to get some changes into the ordinance I ended up supporting the final product while not agreeing with everything in it. Click [HERE](#) for further information.

### **Human Trafficking Task Force:**

Human trafficking is a real issue in our community and in our country, and is one of the fastest growing crimes in the world. It is also one of the nastiest crimes. In the past year and a half in Northern Virginia over 300 victims have been identified. Click [HERE](#) for further information.

### **Reaffirming Support for a Second Crossing:**

Late last year, I asked the Board to send a letter to Governor McAuliffe and Transportation Secretary Layne on behalf of the Board reiterating the Board's support for a second Potomac River Crossing north of the American Legion Bridge. Click [HERE](#) for further information.

### **I-66 Widening:**

The debate over tolling I-66 inside the Beltway hit an important milestone on Wednesday when the Governor announced that the state would be moving forward with the widening of four miles of eastbound I-66 from the Dulles Connector Road to Ballston as part of the project to convert I-66 to HOT lanes. This is great news for motorists and transit users of this congested corridor as well as our residents' quality of life and the region's economy.



From the beginning, my position has been that tolling should not be taking place and certainly not without additional lane capacity. To me it is simple - we have a road that is congested and will remain congested without added capacity and we finally have a proposal that addresses that need for capacity. Previous proposals delayed any added capacity until triggered-- these triggers were a measure based on traffic congestion on a road that is to be congestion priced - that is the definition of lunacy.

I was happy to see the Governor finally recognize the need for widening the road. Many of our state legislators introduced bills to block the Governor's original plan to toll without adding lane capacity, and they deserve a big part of the credit for Wednesday's success. Last week I was pleased to join Supervisor Kathy Smith as one of only two voices on the Board in support of these legislative efforts in Fairfax County. Had they not been introduced, we wouldn't be here today with I-66 finally getting the expansion it desperately needs. At our meeting on November 17<sup>th</sup>, I was able to get Fairfax County on record as supporting the expansion of I-66 inside the beltway by getting Board of Supervisors approval for the following language to be added to our letter to Secretary Lane on I-66 inside the beltway,

*"The Board believes that widening I-66 with an additional eastbound lane from the Dulles Connector Road to Ballston is essential for reducing congestion, and is a proper use of toll revenue. Therefore, Fairfax County supports amending the plan to eliminate the so-called triggers and instead include the design and construction of this additional lane." Click [HERE](#) to see the full letter.*

Contrary to some media accounts this has not been a partisan issue. Senator Chap Peterson drafted both a letter to the Administration and legislation was signed by both republican and democrat state senators opposing tolling without widening. Both Delegate LeMunyon and Delegate Bulova, with bipartisan support, had bills to prohibit tolling without widening. Thanks largely to these legislative efforts we have a solution that starts to make sense. Even with this good news, I strongly encourage you talk with your legislators and/or to attend one of the following VDOT Public Hearings on this project (*All hearing times are 6-8 p.m., with a brief presentation beginning at 6:30 p.m.*):

- **Monday, March 7, 2016 - Washington-Lee High School (Arlington)**
- **Tuesday, March 8, 2016 - Eagle Ridge Middle School (Loudoun)**
- **Wednesday, March 9, 2016 - VDOT Northern Virginia District (Fairfax)**

For more information on this project as well as the project for I-66 outside the beltway, click [HERE](#).

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#### **Initial Thoughts on the Lines of Business Review (LOBs)**

In January, the Board began the long awaited Lines of Business Reviews (LOBs). The County identified 400 distinct lines of business that they engage in while delivering services for our citizens. The Board has dedicated a significant amount of calendar time to hear department presentations and review the full LOBs packages over the next 4 months.



This is the third LOBs review I have participated in since becoming a Supervisor in 2008. I was eagerly awaiting the presentations and the reported focus on business metrics and the services we perform. I know that staff has been spending a lot of time preparing for the presentations and while the presentations have been very informative on what the agencies do and their volume of work, I have been sorely disappointed with the near-complete lack of business metrics.

My expectations were that we would be presented with business metrics on how County agencies conduct services compared to other jurisdictions or the private sector, how they were getting more efficient over time, and/or how the agencies were driving efficiencies in their organizations. What have largely been presented as business metrics to date have been information on the volumes of work.

One agency that got it right was Solid Waste who presented efficiency-based metrics that they use to drive performance along with comparisons to the private sector. For instance, they track and work to increase the amount of waste per truck transferred from I-66 to the Lorton Incinerator which reduces the number of trips and drives down labor and

transportation costs as well as reducing the number of trucks on the roadways. During the sessions I have asked for a number of metrics to be provided as budget requests but would have much preferred to be discussing the metrics with the agencies in the LOBs review. I am not alone in my frustration with the current process. In prior LOBs we were provided suggestions for efficiencies or areas of possible reductions and I have suggested that we modify the format to include business metrics that show or drive efficiency. The agencies are providing what was asked for - hopefully we can get the process fixed so the time the Board and the agencies have invested will be worthwhile.

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### **New Noise Ordinance to Take Effect February 17, 2016**

At our November meeting, the Board passed a new noise ordinance with a delayed effective date of February 17, 2016. After working to get some changes into the ordinance, while not agreeing with everything in it, I ended up supporting the final product. The County will be reviewing the impact of the ordinance and adjust it as necessary. I have highlighted some of the key provisions below but this [link](#) will provide much more information.



The new law prohibits certain noises during specific hours, including:

- Using a loudspeaker or amplifier between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m.
- Making noise that can be plainly heard in another person's home with the doors and windows closed between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. Sunday through Thursday, or between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. on Fridays, Saturdays, and the day before a federal holiday.
- Operating power lawn equipment, including lawn mowers: (a) between 9 p.m. and 7 a.m. when operating the equipment within 100 yards of a dwelling; or (b) between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m. when operating the equipment 100 yards or more from a dwelling; or (c) between 9 p.m. and 5:30 a.m. for golf course maintenance when operating the equipment 50 yards or more from a dwelling; or (d) between 9 p.m. and 7 a.m. for golf course maintenance when operating the equipment less than 50 yards from a dwelling. However, on all properties, the operation of leaf blowers is prohibited between 9 p.m. and 7 a.m.
- Using dog parks Monday through Friday before 7 a.m. or after dusk or before 8 a.m. or after dusk on Saturday, Sunday or the day before a federal holiday.



- Barking, howling, meowing, squawking or quacking animals between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. when it can be heard inside a home with its doors and windows closed, or if these sounds can be heard between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. for more than five minutes consecutively or non-consecutively during a 10-minute period.
- Noise from athletic fields is permitted between 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Sunday through Thursday, or between 7 a.m. and 11 p.m. on Friday, Saturday or the day before a federal holiday. However, loudspeaker use remains prohibited between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m.

The new noise law also sets maximum decibel levels for residential, mixed use, commercial and industrial areas. Some noises are excluded from regulation, including generators use in emergencies, snow removal, cars on the road, metro trains and police or fire sirens.

To report a violation, call:

During daytime hours (Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Friday 9:15 a.m. - 4 p.m.), you should contact the Department of Code Compliance at 703-324-1300, TTY 711.

At night, call the Police Department's non-emergency number, 703-691-2131, TTY 711.

### **Human Trafficking Task Force**

Human trafficking is a real issue in our community and in our country and is one of the fastest growing-and nastiest-- crimes in the world. In the past year and a half in Northern Virginia over 300 victims have been identified.

We often think of Human Trafficking as people being brought into the County and forced to provide services against their will. More often in Northern Virginia, it is gangs preying on our vulnerable youth forcing them into prostitution. These victims are from all races and incomes. Awareness of what to look for and asking the right questions are critical to turning back this horrific crime. I was pleased to ask the Board to recognize January as Human Trafficking Awareness month in Fairfax County to help call attention to the problem and educate parents and friends of victims of what signs to look for.

Fairfax County has been the recipient of a Department of Justice (DOJ) grant to fund a task force to fight Human Trafficking. We are fortunate to have the very committed Detective Bill Woolf assigned to the task force. In addition to his successful arrests in several high profile trafficking cases, he has created just the kind of community awareness that we need to address the issue - working with Just Ask VA, County agencies, and community groups. Although the DOJ grant was unfortunately not renewed, Police Chief Roessler has directed that Detective Woolf retain his Task Force position.

The County has taken some meaningful steps to address human trafficking but more needs to be done. Establishing the permanent unit in the police department to handle human trafficking cases is a big step in the right direction, however, we also have the need for a shelter for victims as there are currently there are none in the region.

Human trafficking isn't a problem defined by geography or socio-economic status-- it could happen to anyone and awareness is key. Please take a moment to visit [JustAskVA](#) and talk to your kids, your neighbors, your friends, and your loved ones. Together I hope that we can work to eliminate this scourge from our community.

### **Reaffirming Support for a Second Potomac River Crossing**

Late last year, I asked the Board to send a letter to Governor McAuliffe and Transportation Secretary Layne on behalf of the Board reiterating the Board's support for a second Potomac River Crossing north of the American Legion Bridge. The Board-approved letter reiterates its

support for moving forward with a new Potomac River crossing in conjunction with the expansion of the American Legion Bridge crossing.



The Board had previously sent two letters in support of improvements to the American Legion Bridge. The first expressed support of the improvements to the American Legion Bridge and endorsed the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) study's recommendation to extend HOT lanes across the bridge to the I-270 spur in Maryland. The second was a follow up to its requests of 2012 (along with that of the Montgomery County Council) to add two lanes to the Beltway from the I-270 West Spur to Virginia for HOT lanes since little to no action has been taken.

In the Board's discussions of these items, acknowledgment of the need for a new Potomac Crossing has been made; however, it was not explicitly stated in either letter. Members of the Board have been contacted asking for clarification as to our stance on a new Potomac Crossing as a result of these letters. I believe it was important for the Board to reiterate its support for a new Potomac Crossing. I am happy to report that in December, the CTB approved moving forward with these critical priorities - the second crossing north of the American Legion Bridge and improvements for the American Legion Bridge. Hopefully we can get movement on these transportation priorities in the near future.

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### **Upcoming Community Meetings and Events**

#### **Budget Town Hall**

Budget season is moving into full swing. The County Executive will be presenting his budget proposal at the Board's meeting on Tuesday February 16th and the Board will be setting the advertised (maximum) tax rate at its meeting on March 1st.

Please save the date for my annual Budget Town Hall Meeting co-hosted by the Springfield District Council on **Wednesday, March 23 (snow date March 30) from 7-9 p.m. at the West Springfield Government Center (6140 Rolling Road in Springfield)**. County Executive Ed Long and members of my Citizens' Budget Review Committee will join me with a short presentation on the budget and then a question and answer session with residents

#### **Free Tax Relief Workshop in West Springfield**

Jointly with the Fairfax County Department of Tax Administration (DTA), I am hosting a free tax relief workshop for older adults and people with disabilities on Friday, March 25th from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The workshop will be in the community room of the West Springfield Government Center at 6140 Rolling Road in Springfield. Staff from the DTA's Tax Relief Division will be available to assist with filling out the application form, as well as answering any questions that may arise.

For more information and a full list of workshops Countywide, click [HERE](#).

### **Burke Lake Park Clubhouse and Driving Range Replacement Public Information Meeting**

On Thursday, February 25 at 6:30 p.m., there will be a community meeting at Fairview Elementary School (5815 Ox Road in Fairfax Station) regarding the Burke Lake Golf Course Clubhouse Replacement and Driving Range Expansion. From 6:30-7:30 p.m., citizens will have the opportunity to review and discuss design plans with Fairfax County Park Authority Staff. This will be followed by a formal staff presentation and question and answer period.

### **Federal Primary Elections In-Person Absentee Voting Information**

Weekday in-person absentee voting is taking place at the Fairfax County Government Center (12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax) in conference rooms 2&3 from now through February 27. The hours are as follows:

- Monday-Wednesday, Friday: 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (Note: Closed Monday 2/15 in observance of Presidents' Day)
- Thursday: 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.

**On Saturday, February 27 ONLY**, in-person absentee voting will be available at the Fairfax County Government Center as well as these satellite voting locations from 9 a.m.- 5 p.m.

- Providence Community Center - 3001 Vaden Dr., Fairfax, 22031 - **New Location**
- Franconia Governmental Center - 6121 Franconia Rd., Alexandria, 22310
- McLean Governmental Center - 1437 Balls Hill Rd., Community Room, McLean, 22101
- North County Governmental Center - 1801 Cameron Glen Dr., Community Rooms, Reston, 20190
- West Springfield Governmental Center - 6140 Rolling Rd., Springfield, 22152
- Mason Governmental Center - 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale, 22003
- Mount Vernon Governmental Center - 2511 Parkers Lane, Alexandria, 22306
- Sully District Governmental Center - 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly, 20151

**Laptop Donation Program:**

Through February 28, consider donating your working laptop computers or tablets to homeless Fairfax County youth. A dropbox is located in the lobby of the West Springfield Government Center (6140 Rolling Road, Springfield); for additional information including other dropoff locations click [HERE](#).

**Destination Rides Information Session:**

Are you looking to give back to your community in a meaningful way? If so, NV Rides is the perfect place to start!

What is NV Rides? NV Rides is a network of service providers aiming to enhance and improve volunteer driving programs throughout Northern Virginia. The biggest issue facing our seniors as they age is transportation and the lack of mobility. It hinders our seniors' ability to age in place and get to necessary medical appointments. We take for granted driving to doctors' appointments, going to the grocery store and going to the hairdresser and pharmacy. But for some that can no longer drive, these can be impossible tasks. This is where your volunteer service comes in and makes a difference!

If you would like to learn more about becoming a volunteer driver, then please join us for Destination Rides, a one-hour information session to learn more about how volunteer driver programs help older adults "age in place" in the community. The session will be held on February 24<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM at the Chantilly Regional Library (4000 Stringfellow Rd., Chantilly). Learn how the NV Rides program works, about the services offered by the NV Rides network of providers and issues facing non-driving seniors in our community. You will also hear from a volunteer driver from Shepherd's Center Annandale-Springfield. For more information, contact NV Rides at 703.537.3070 or [GinaC@NVRides.org](mailto:GinaC@NVRides.org).